In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for estimating a result size of a Group-By operation
   comprising:
   organizing a database stored on a computer readable medium with data records
maintained in multiple tables;
   calculating a cumulative selectivity based upon aggregation of individual selectivity of
each column in a group of tables in a Group-By operation, wherein the step of calculating a
cumulative selectivity is based upon the following mathematical relationship: $S_{ab} = S_a + S_b - (S_a \times S_b)$, wherein S_a is a selectivity of column "a", S_b is the selectivity of column "b", and S_{ab} is a
cumulative selectivity of columns "a" and column "b"; and
   multiplying said calculated cumulative selectivity by an input size of said Group-By
operation to estimate a result size of said Group-By operation;
   computing a memory requirement for said Group-By operation based on said estimated
result size; and
   allocating memory for said operation based upon said memory requirement.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of calculating a cumulative selectivity
              includes normalizing a selectivity for each column in said group.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of normalizing a selectivity for each
              column includes applying a weight factor to said selectivity based upon a relative
              size of a table in which said column resides.

4. Canceled

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising an iterative application of
   said mathematical relationship for each additional column in said group.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of calculating a cumulative selectivity
includes equivalent columns of said group based upon query predicates.

Claims 7- 19 (Canceled)